

Series Title: ‘David: A Chosen King Story’

Primary Aim: This series is a character study on the life of David through which we will wrestle with questions of identity, courage, friendship, promises, failure and legacy. It is designed to enable us to engage with this famous Bible character who God called a “man after his own heart”. The series will help us think about how to cultivate a deep relationship with God.

1. A story of Identity: David, Saul & Samuel

Passages: 1 Samuel 15-16

Blurb: In this session we introduce the life of David by looking at why God chose him to be King. We will build a foundation on the idea of Identity and then developed that into the life of David to see that God is looking for people He can use and the key quality He is looking for is the heart and not externals.

2. A story of Courage: David & Goliath

Passages: 1 Samuel 17

Blurb: The next session is on Goliath and again we are looking at the early years of David’s life. We went for Courage but it could have easily been victory or trusting God when the pressure is on. What is really interesting about this passage is how God focused David is and how he approaches this terrifying warrior seemingly without fear. In life we face lots of “giants” and the challenge here is to look to God and the strength He provides rather than being consumed by the nature of the giant we are facing. Your own story of finding courage (Joshua 1:7) would be really powerful here.

3. A story of Friendship: David, Saul & Jonathan

Passages: 1 Samuel 18-26

Blurb: The final session from David’s early years concerns his thorny relationship with Saul (quite life threatening at times) and the encouragement that David reaps from his close friendship with Jonathan. We all need friends (perhaps a place to show a clip from the TV show here?) to help us through the hardest times of life. What is so interesting with David & Jonathan is how they helped one another find strength in God. As there is a lot of material here you will need to choose what bits to focus on. There are some helpful notes attached to this e-mail which happen to focus on this relationship which could be a help to you Tom!

4. A story of Promises: David & God

Passage: 2 Samuel 5-7, 1 Kings 8, Isaiah 55

Blurb: This session is very much a turning point for David as we consider the idea of promises. God’s promises are quite different to the kind of promises we make because God’s is faithful to keeping all of His promises (see Joshua 21:45 & 23:14). The story is fascinating how David offered to build God a house but that was not God’s plan – instead He was going to build David a house that would last forever. It would be particularly interesting to see how these promises continue to be worked out through our own lives (catching the vision).

WKD AWAY: Playing our part in God’s Story

Blurb: They key idea here is one of vision and thinking about how we can play our part in God’s big story. The link is more “story” than “David” (we don’t need David overload) and it is always a great opportunity for some vision casting and helping people to see how they can contribute themselves to all that God is doing. We have seen that God wants to do so but this is more the nuts and bolts of it.

5. A story of Failure: David & Bathsheba

Passages: 2 Samuel 11-12, Psalm 51

Blurb: As we move into the latter part of David’s life we now see some examples of David’s weaknesses. This session brings the pertinent and highly relevant question of sexuality into focus but I want us to take the angle of Failure. As with the other topics failure is a pertinent question for us and something that can make or break us (e.g. compare the responses to failure of Peter and Judas). There is a lot of content (built upon in session 6) so again you will need to be selective and emphasise grace. Personal stories would be particularly powerful here.

6. A story of Legacy: David & Absalom

Passages: 2 Samuel 13-18

Blurb: The final session is about David’s later years which are full of family crisis and conspiracies. Again there is much content so we will need to be selective in sharing the main aspects of the story. This is a crisis that David partly brought on himself but it is one which brings him back to God and ultimately he enjoys the victory – though it is somewhat bittersweet because of the loss of his son, Absalom. 2 Samuel 18:18 is a particularly pertinent verse in this section which points us to think about what legacy we are leaving behind.